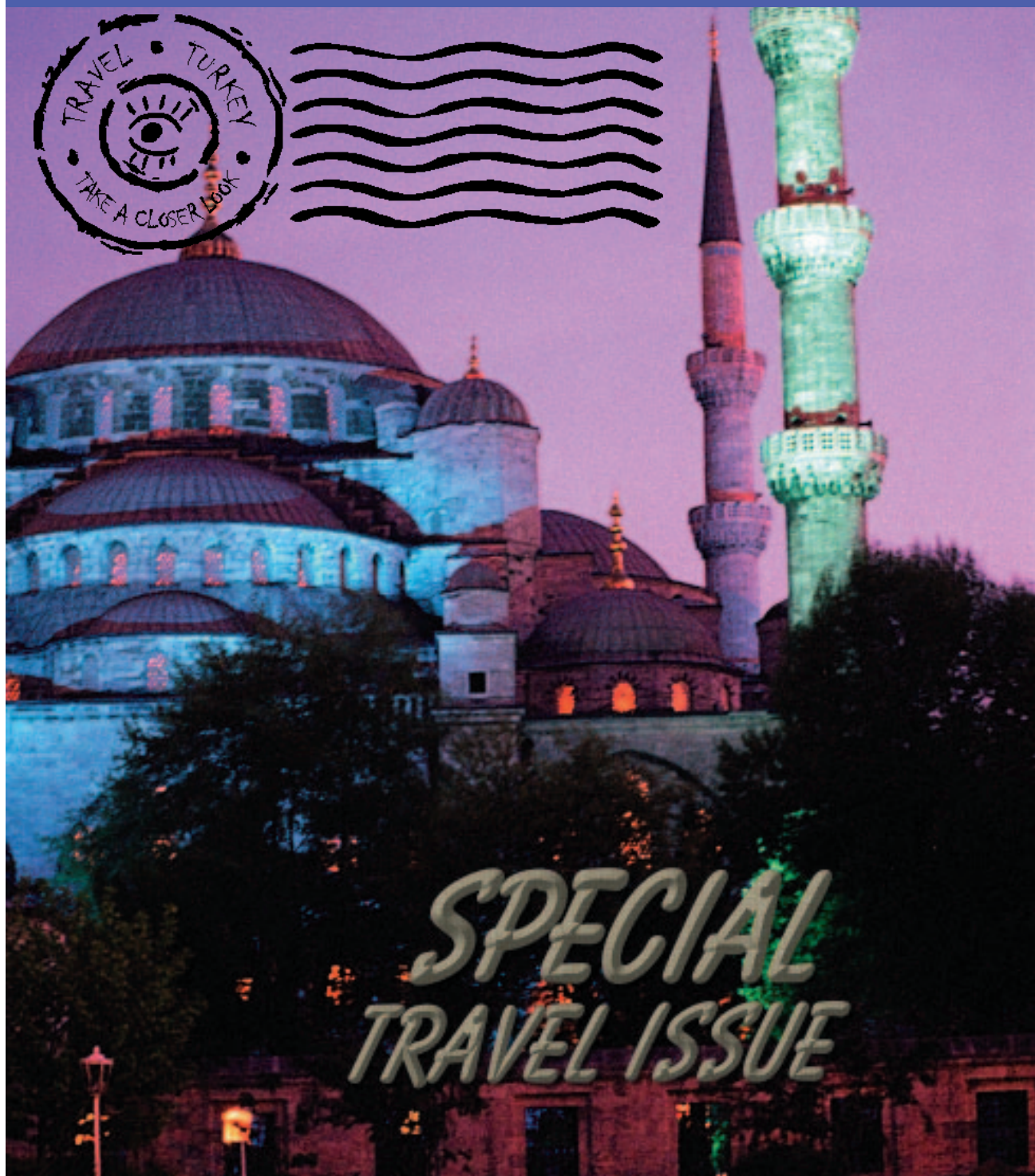


# Tip of the Sword

Vol. 27, No. 17

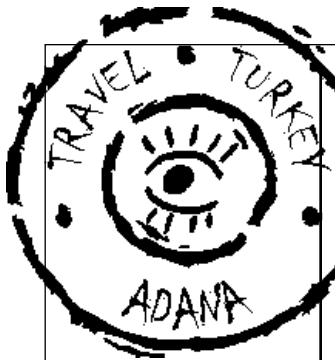
Incirlik AB, Turkey

May 15, 1998



*SPECIAL  
TRAVEL ISSUE*





## Getting there

### Dolmus

You can catch a dolmus outside the front gate. It costs 55,000 TL (25 cents) to take you to the heart of old Adana. Be sure you get on the one with "İncirlik" on the front.

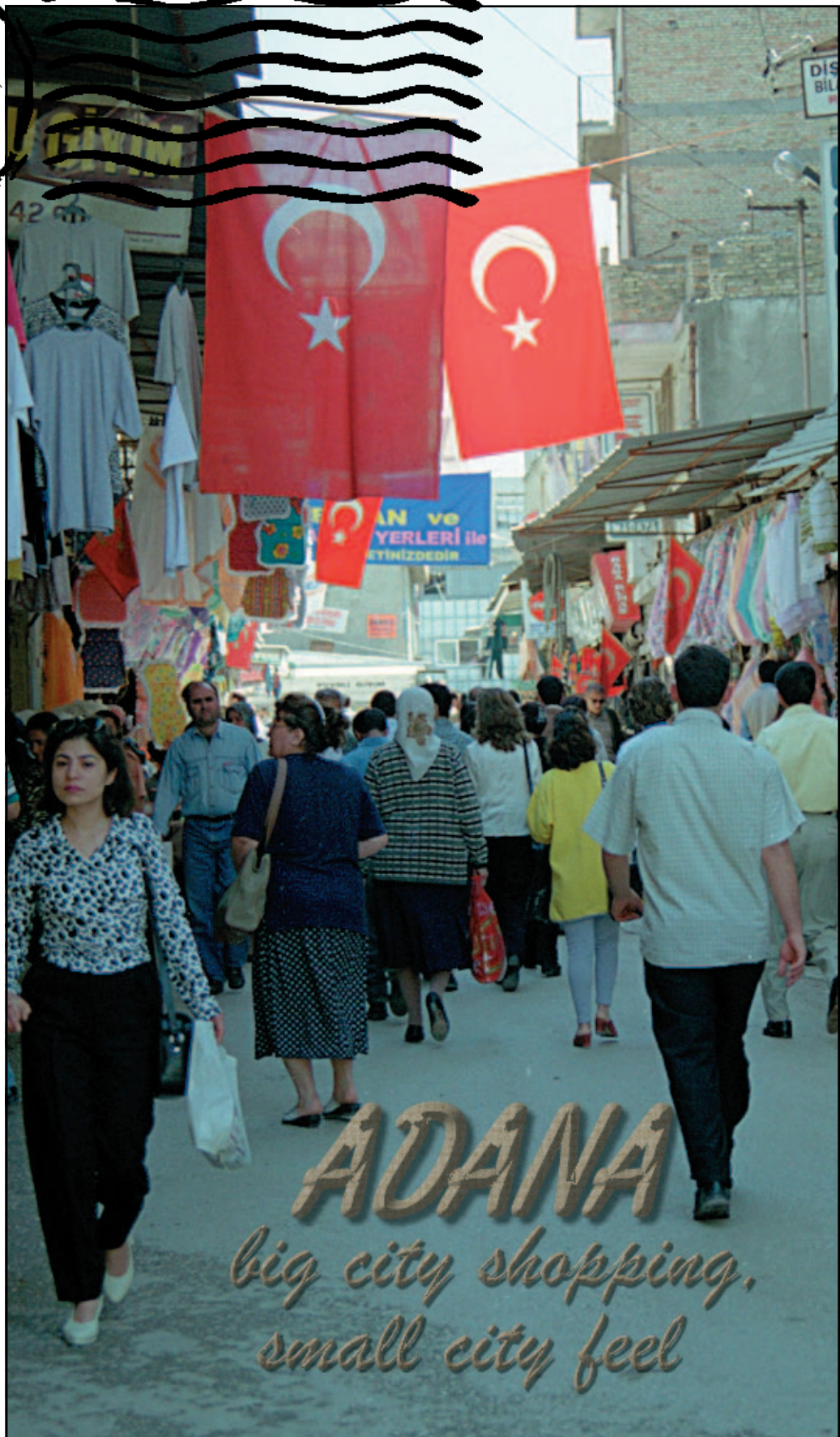
### Car

Outside the gate, turn right. At the end of the alley, turn right onto Highway E-5. To go to the old Adana shopping district, turn left at the second traffic circle past the new mosque. To go to new Adana, turn right just before the second underpass.

### Taxi

This is the most expensive way to travel to Adana. A taxi ride will cost more than \$10 one way. The advantage is that you can get a taxi to pick you up at your home and bring you wherever you want to go.

**On the cover:**  
**The Blue Mosque**  
 in Istanbul during  
 one of its nightly  
 light shows.  
 (Photo by TSgt.  
 Karen Petitt)



Shoppers crowd the streets of old Adana.

SrA. Martie Capoean





Katherine Van Buren

**The Roman bridge across the Seyhan River in Adana. The bridge was built in the 2nd Century.**



SrA. Martie Capoeman

**Local shops like these (above) are a good place to get a variety of items such as spices, oils, lotions and incense. Turkish teenagers (right) eat American-style pizza and burgers with a Turkish touch for lunch at a local restaurant in new Adana.**



SrA. Martie Capoeman

**The streets of old Adana are filled with street vendors selling fresh fruits and vegetables.**



SrA. Martie Capoeman

## By Nikol Roloff

*Public Affairs*

**S**hopping in Adana is unlike shopping anywhere else. The city's divided into old and new. While shopping, you can literally experience both worlds in a day.

In old Adana, you'll find everything from boutique-type shops to a huge seven-floor department store. Things tend to be a little cheaper in

old Adana, mainly because most goods are made in Turkey. You can find towels, robes, sweaters, etc., and pay roughly \$5 per kilogram. Turkish fabric is some of the finest fabric ever made. You can buy fine silk for a fraction of the American price.

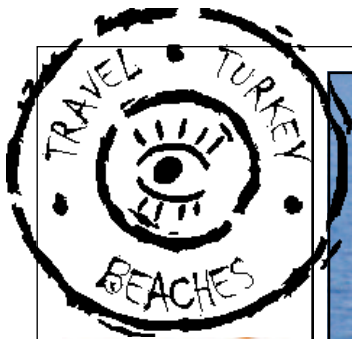
In new Adana, the shopping experience is closer to that found in the States. It's sprinkled with specialty stores and restaurants. Prices tend to be a little higher because the

goods are western imports and taxed.

There are also spas where you can be pampered with foot rubs, back rubs and facials. The makeup found in these stores is easily double the U.S. price, but it's a small price to pay if you're longing for a touch of home.

If you're looking for something in particular, ask someone who's been there before. If you don't find what you're looking for, at least you'll have fun trying. ☺





## Getting there

### Turkish Riviera

Driving down the southern coastal highway is the best way to see the Turkish Riviera. Travel in daylight or you'll miss these fantastic sites.

### Kizkalesi

Take Highway E-5 west through Adana. It takes approximately two hours to drive there.

### Cyprus

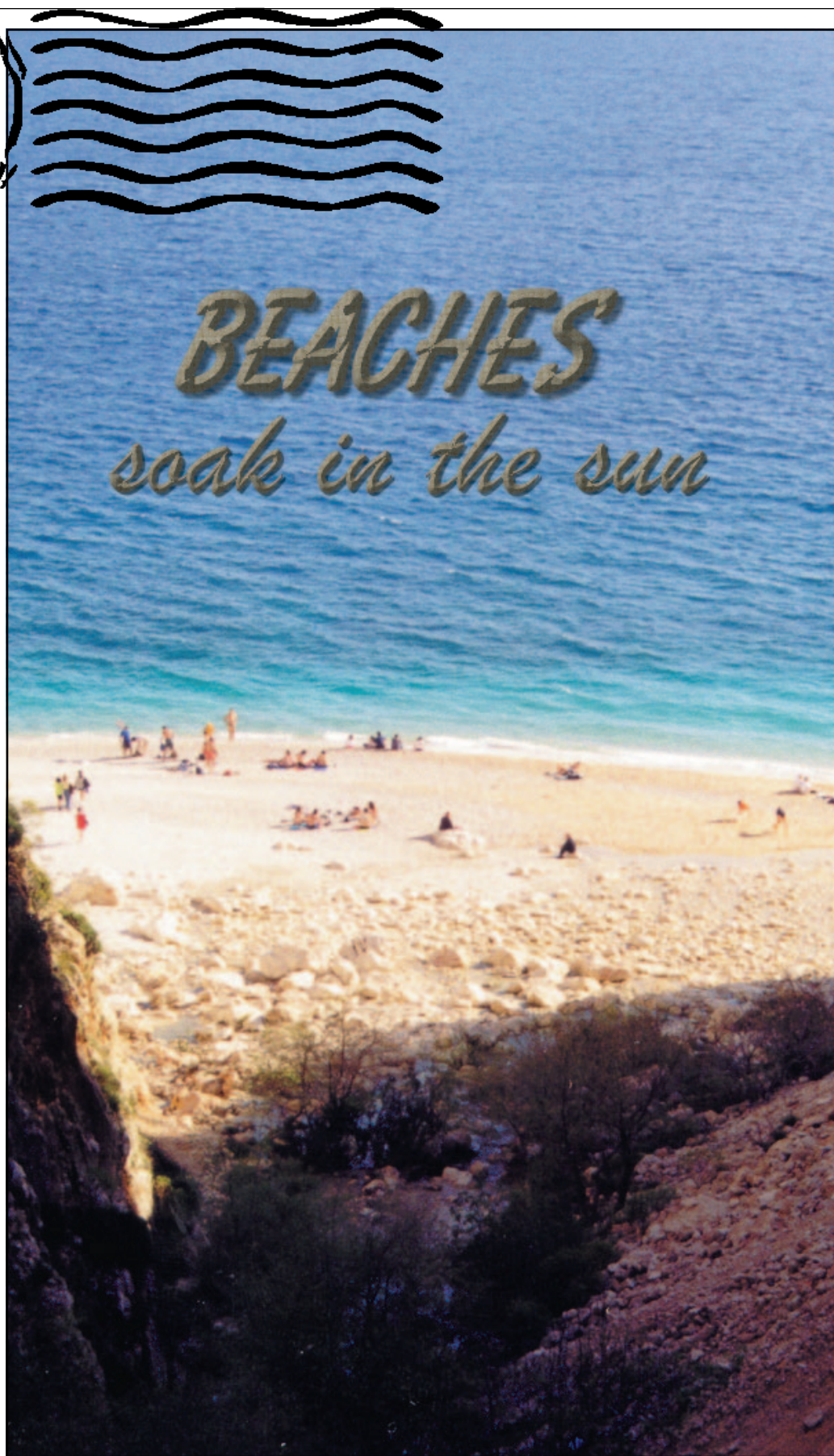
You can either arrange travel by air or by water from Mersin.

### Alanya

Travel agencies usually offer regular tours to Alanya. You can travel by air or by car. Take Highway E-5 west through Kizkalesi along the coastal highway about 10 hours. Another route is to travel to Konya and down to the coast. This method avoids the windy coastal highway.

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**Sun worshipers speckle the beach along the Turkish Riviera during April.**



Army Capt. Ken Despain



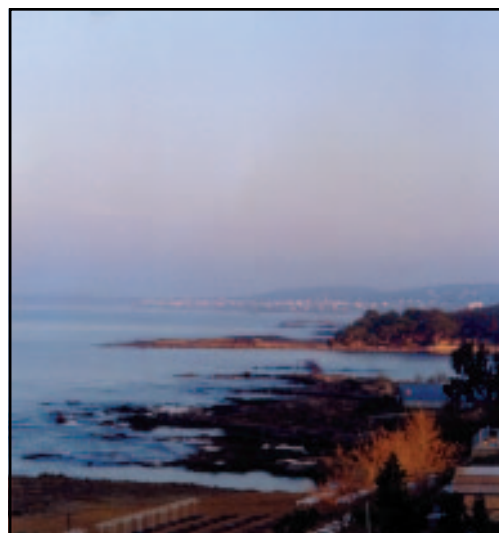
Gary French

**As the sun sets, another spectacular day ends on the Turkish coast at Kizkalesi.**



Stephanie Langton

**One of the longest and most beautiful sandy beaches is this one near the ancient city of Salamis on the Turkish island of Cyprus.**



Capt. Max Torrens

**This rocky shoreline is part of the priceless view from a hotel west of Alanya.**

## **SSgt. Joel Langton**

*Public Affairs*

**T**urkey has beaches of every size, shape and style just waiting to be explored.

Rock beaches tend to hurt your feet at first, but warm your back as you lie on them. Then, there are beautiful white sand beaches that reach into the emerald blue Mediterranean waters.

There are beaches where you'll find women frolicking in the waves

wearing ankle-length dresses and veils. Then there are the European-style beaches where they're wearing a little less.

One of the beauties of living in this location is that you can be breathing the scent of salt air and letting the water lap at your toes in less than an hour.

If you're more adventurous, and save your money for awhile, you can visit some of the more pristine beaches at Bodrum on the other side of Turkey. They have a reputation as

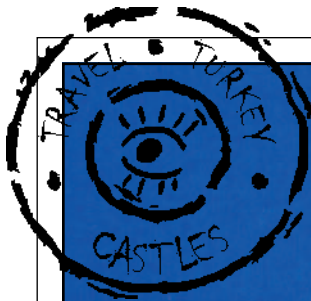
being some of the finest places in the world.

Or, if you prefer to fly, you can jump on a plane and be on the island of Cyprus. You'll be there in less than two hours from leaving Incirlik.

Never forget the beaches closer to home at Karatas and Kizkalesi, or further up the coast in Alanya and Antalya.

Whatever you want, Turkey's got the beach to fill the need with it's 1,274 miles of coastline. Just make sure you take sandals. ☼





# CASTLES

*climb into  
the past*

SSgt. J.C. Woodring

Conquering Snake Castle takes quite a climb, but it makes you feel as if you're on top of the world.



Col. Larry Van Buren

This fortress, not opened to the public, overlooks the Basilica of St. John in Ephesus (shown in the foreground). The basilica was built in the 6th century.





SSgt. J.C. Woodring

**Maiden's Castle, known as Castle by the Sea, sits off the shore of Kizkalesi.**



Capt. Max Torrens

**Black Castle makes a foreboding fortress at the strategic crossroads to Gaziantep and Iskenderun.**

Castles in Turkey are a wonder to see and filled with history. What's amazing is how close we are to them. Everywhere you look, there are ancient ruins.

### Snake Castle

In popular mythology, it's believed that Snake Castle was the home of a tyrant with magical powers, a medieval monster, part-man and part-snake. Serpents came when he called and enforced his will.

It's a rocky climb to get to the top of the castle. Don't forget to bring climbing shoes and water. Also, there's a small entrance fee.

### Black Castle

Black Castle is a place to see. Also called Toprakkale, the castle is made of dark volcanic stone making it an ominous fortress on its small hill.

Overflowing with lush grasses and wild flowers, the castle had cisterns, chambers and angled slats for archers.

Similar to most of the castles in the area, the castle still offers a nice, outdoor break from the everyday life at Incirlik.

### Castle by the Sea

For a little longer drive you'll be rewarded by a great day at a beach and some great castle ruins. Kizkalesi has a groomed, yellow sand beach dotted with hotel lounge chairs and tourists.

Just 100 yards off shore is the picturesque Maiden's Castle. Legend says the castle held a princess in isolation for her own safety.

Packed with tourists during peak season, an off-season visit is peaceful and a great getaway. (staff report) ☺



## Getting there

### Tours

Each week, the base tour office offers tours to Castle by the Sea and an Iskenderun, three castles tour.

The three castles tour includes stops at Black Castle, Snake Castle and Payas Castle.

Day trips cost \$12 to go to Castle by the Sea and \$14 for the three castles tour. An overnight trip to Castle by the Sea costs from \$40-\$65.

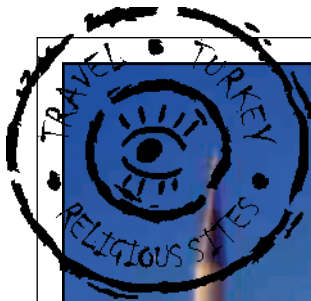
### Car

If you have your own transportation, you might want to drive to visit some of the local castles.

**Snake Castle** is the closest and easiest castle to get to. Turn east on Highway E-5 and drive about 20 miles. You'll see a yellow "Yilan Kalesi" sign at the turnoff. You can't miss it.

**Black Castle** is east on Highway E-5. About 40 miles out, you'll see Toprakkale signs, but follow E-5 and take the road toward Iskenderun. Immediately after turning, look for a small yellow "Toprakkale" sign. You can also take the toll highway and exit at Toprakkale.

**Castle by the Sea** is west on Highway E-5 through Adana. It takes approximately two hours to get there.



Dan Capoeman

Adana is the construction site of one of the largest mosques in the Islamic world. It will reportedly hold 28,500 people. It's located on E-5 as you enter Adana traveling from Incirlik.



Riza Hall

Stone structure provides a backdrop for Abraham's Pool in Harran.



Col. Larry Van Buren

The body of the apostle John is buried in Selcuk under a basilica.





Col. Larry Van Buren

**A shrine dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus, is located in her home near Ephesus.**



Riza Hall

**Saint Paul's well is located in Tarsus, Paul's birthplace. Paul, who penned half of the New Testament, is said to have drawn water from this well.**



Col. Larry Van Buren

**The remains of a Jewish temple at the ancient city of Sardis.**

## TSgt. Jesse Hall

*Public Affairs*

**T**urkey is one of the world's richest countries in terms of religious history. From the shores of Izmir to the Turkish/Syrian border, ancient archeological sights give testimony to the progress of three major world religions—Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

To the west, one can visit the sites of the seven churches of the Bible's book of Revelations. These 1st century churches were the subjects of divine revelation and prophecy given by Jesus Christ to the apostle John. The sites contain mostly ancient ruins.

In central Turkey, Tarsus was the

birthplace of the apostle Paul, who carried the Christian gospel to the non-Jewish world.

St. Paul's church has remnants of frescoes of Christ and the angels still decorating the ceiling. Additionally, there's a mosque nearby, called Makam Cami, which houses the body of Daniel, the prophet who survived a night in a lion's den.

To the east, near the city of Urfa, is the ancient city of Harran. The location was home to Abraham, father of the Jews and Arabs. It's claimed to be the oldest mosque in Anatolia.

Among other sites in Turkey which have religious significance, are Mount Ararat (near the Iranian border), where Noah's ark is said to have landed, and Antioch (Antakya), site of an early Christian community. ☸



## Getting there

The base chapel conducts pilgrimages to many of Turkey's religious sites. These are an excellent way to visit the sites because there's a chaplain and local tour guide along to explain the meaning and history of the locations.

Additionally, they work through tour agencies to obtain quality room and board at reasonable prices.

## Car

### Seven Churches—

west on E-5. Take a left to Konya, go through Afyon, then on to the city of Denizli. The ruins of Pamukkale, Heiropolis and Laodicea are in this area. From here, travelers can hit the remaining churches by traveling in a loop along main highways. A good road map of the area will show travelers the way, but they should be prepared to ask directions.

**Harran**—east on E-5, travel through Gaziantep and on to the city of Sanliurfa, then turn right to Harran.

**Tarsus**—west on E-5 and travel into Adana. Take a right turn at the sign that points to Ankara, then look for a left turn to Tarsus about one kilometer later.